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TRANSLATION
OF THE
PRELIMINARY ARTICLES
OF
PEACE,
BETWEEN
His *BRITANNIC* MAJESTY,
AND
The Moſt *CHRISTIAN* KING,
Signed at *Verſailles*, the 20th *January* 1783.

IN the Name of the Moſt Holy Trinity.

The King of *Great Britain*, and the Moſt Chriſtian King, equally animated with a Deſire of putting an End to the Calamities of a deſtructive War, and of re-eſtabliſhing Union and good Underſtanding between them, as neceſſary for the Good of Mankind in general, as for that of their reſpective Kingdoms, States, and Subjects, have named for this Purpoſe, *viz*t, On the Part of His *Britannic* Majeſty, Mr. *Alleyne Fitz-Herbert*, Miniſter Plenipotentiary of His ſaid Majeſty the King of *Great Britain*; and on the Part of His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, *Charles Gravier Comte de Vergennes*, Councillor in all His Councils, Commander of His Orders, Councillor of State, Miniſter and Secretary of State, and of the Commands and Finances of His ſaid Majeſty for the Department of Foreign Affairs; who, after having duly communicated to each other their full Powers in good Form, have agreed on the following Preliminary Articles:

ARTICLE I.

As ſoon as the Preliminaries ſhall be ſigned and ratified, ſincere Friendſhip ſhall be re-eſtabliſhed between His *Britannic* Majeſty

Majeſty and His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, their Kingdoms, States, and Subjects, by Sea and by Land, in all Parts of the World: Orders ſhall be ſent to the Armies and Squadrons, as well as to the Subjects, of the Two Powers, to ſtop all Hoſtilities, and to live in the moſt perfect Union, forgetting what is paſſed, of which their Sovereigns give them the Order and Example; and for the Execution of this Article, Sea Paſſes ſhall be given on each Side for the Ships which ſhall be diſpatched to carry the News of it to the Poſſeſſions of the ſaid Powers.

ARTICLE II.

His Majeſty the King of *Great Britain* ſhall preſerve in full Right the Iſland of *Newfoundland*, and the adjacent Iſlands, in the ſame Manner as the Whole was ceded to Him by the Thirteenth Article of the Treaty of *Utrecht*, ſave the Exceptions which ſhall be ſtipulated by the Fifth Article of the preſent Treaty.

ARTICLE III.

His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, in order to prevent Quarrels which have hitherto ariſen between the Two Nations of *England* and *France*, renounces the Right of Fiſhing, which belongs to Him by virtue of the ſaid Article of the Treaty of *Utrecht*, from *Cape Bonaviſta* to *Cape St. John*, ſituated on the Eaſtern Coaſt of *Newfoundland*, in about 50 Degrees of North Latitude: Whereby the *French* Fiſhery ſhall commence at the ſaid *Cape St. John*, ſhall go round by the North, and, going down the Weſtern Coaſt of the Iſland of *Newfoundland*, ſhall have for Boundary the Place called *Cape Raye*, ſituated in 47 Degrees 50 Minutes Latitude.

ARTICLE IV.

The *French* Fiſhermen ſhall enjoy the Fiſhery aſſigned them by the foregoing Article, as they have a Right to enjoy it by virtue of the Treaty of *Utrecht*.

ARTICLE V.

His *Britannic* Majeſty will cede in full Right to His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty the Iſlands of *St. Pierre* and *Miquelon*.

ARTICLE VI.

With regard to the Right of Fiſhing in the Gulph of *St. Laurence*, the *French* ſhall continue to enjoy it conformably to the Fifth Article of the Treaty of *Paris*.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE VII.

The King of *Great Britain* ſhall reſtore to *France* the Iſland of *St. Lucia*, and ſhall cede and guaranty to her that of *Tobago*.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Moſt Chriſtian King ſhall reſtore to *Great Britain* the Iſlands of *Grenada*, and the *Grenadines*, *St. Vincent's*, *Dominica*, *St. Chriſtopher's*, *Nevis*, and *Montſerrat:* And the Fortreſſes of thoſe Iſlands conquered by the Arms of *Great Britain*, and by thoſe of *France*, ſhall be reſtored in the ſame Condition in which they were when the Conqueſt of them was made; provided that the Term of Eighteen Months, to be computed from the Time of the Ratification of the Definitive Treaty, ſhall be granted to the reſpective Subjects of the Crowns of *Great Britain* and *France*, who may have ſettled in the ſaid Iſlands, and in other Places which ſhall be reſtored by the Definitive Treaty, to ſell their Eſtates, recover their Debts, and to tranſport their Effects, and retire without being reſtrained on Account of their Religion, or any other whatever, except in Caſes of Debt, or of criminal Proſecutions.

ARTICLE IX.

The King of *Great Britain* ſhall cede and guaranty in full Right to His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, the River of *Senegal*, and its Dependencies, with the Forts of *St. Louis*, *Podor*, *Galam*, *Arguin*, and *Portendie:* His *Britannic* Majeſty ſhall reſtore likewiſe the Iſland of *Gorée*, which ſhall be given up in the Condition in which it was when the *Britiſh* Arms took Poſſeſſion of it.

ARTICLE X.

The Moſt Chriſtian King ſhall, on His Side, guaranty to His Majeſty the King of *Great Britain*, the Poſſeſſion of *Fort James*, and of the River *Gambia*.

ARTICLE XI.

In order to prevent all Diſcuſſion in that Part of the World, the Two Courts ſhall agree, either by the Definitive Treaty, or by a ſeparate Act, upon the Boundaries to be fixed to their reſpective Poſſeſſions. The Gum Trade ſhall be carried on in future, as the *Engliſh* and *French* Nations carried it on before the Year 1755.

ARTICLE XII.

In regard to the reſt of the Coaſts of *Africa*, the Subjects of both Powers ſhall continue to frequent them, according to the Cuſtom which has prevailed hitherto.

ARTICLE XIII.

The King of *Great Britain* ſhall reſtore to His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty all the Eſtabliſhments which belonged to Him at the Commencement of the preſent War on the Coaſt of *Orixa*, and in *Bengal*, with Liberty to ſurround *Chandernagor* with a Ditch for draining the Waters; and His *Britannic* Majeſty engages to take ſuch Meaſures as may be in His Power, for ſecuring to the Subjects of *France* in that Part of *India*, as alſo on the Coaſts of *Orixa*, *Coromandel*, and *Malabar*, a ſafe, free, and independent Trade, ſuch as was carried on by the late *French Eaſt India* Company, whether it be carried on by them as Individuals, or as a Company.

ARTICLE XIV.

Pondicherry, as well as *Karical*, ſhall likewiſe be reſtored and guarantied to *France*; and His *Britannic* Majeſty ſhall procure to ſerve as a Dependency round *Pondicherry*, the Two Diſtricts of *Valancur* and *Bahour*; and as a Dependency round *Karical*, the Four contiguous Magans.

ARTICLE XV.

France ſhall again enter into Poſſeſſion of *Mahé*, and of the Comptoir at *Surat*; and the *French* ſhall carry on Commerce in this Part of *India*, conformably to the Principles laid down in the Thirteenth Article of this Treaty.

ARTICLE XVI.

In caſe *France* has Allies in *India*, they ſhall be invited, as well as thoſe of *Great Britain*, to accede to the preſent Pacification; and for that Purpoſe, a Term of Four Months, to be computed from the Day on which the Propoſal ſhall be made to them, ſhall be allowed them to make their Deciſion; and in caſe of Refuſal on their Part, their *Britannic* and Moſt Chriſtian Majeſties agree not to give them any Aſſiſtance, directly or indirectly, againſt the *Britiſh* or *French* Poſſeſſions, or againſt the ancient Poſſeſſions of their reſpective Allies; and their ſaid Majeſties ſhall offer them their good Offices towards a mutual Accommodation.

ARTICLE XVII.

The King of *Great Britain*, desirous of giving His Most Christian Majesty a sincere Proof of Reconciliation and Friendship, and of contributing to the Solidity of the Peace which is on the Point of being re-established, will consent to the Abrogation and Suppression of all the Articles relative to *Dunkirk*, from the Treaty of Peace concluded at *Utrecht* in 1713, inclusively, to this Time.

ARTICLE XVIII.

By the Definitive Treaty, all those which have existed till now between the Two high contracting Parties, and which shall not have been derogated from, either by the said Treaty, or by the present Preliminary Treaty, shall be renewed and confirmed; and the Two Courts shall name Commissioners to enquire into the State of Commerce between the Two Nations, in order to agree upon new Arrangements of Trade, on the Footing of Reciprocity and mutual Convenience. The said Two Courts shall together amicably fix a competent Term for the Duration of that Business.

ARTICLE XIX.

All the Countries and Territories which may have been or which may be conquered, in any Part of the World whatsoever, by the Arms of His *Britannic* Majesty, or by those of His Most Christian Majesty, and which are not included in the present Articles, shall be restored without Difficulty, and without requiring Compensation.

ARTICLE XX.

As it is necessary to assign a fixed Epoch for the Restitutions and the Evacuations to be made by each of the high contracting Parties, it is agreed, That the King of *Great Britain* shall cause to be evacuated the Islands of *St. Pierre* and *Miquelon*, Three Months after the Ratification of the Definitive Treaty, or sooner if it can be done; *St. Lucia*, in the *West Indies*, and *Goree* in *Africa*, Three Months after the Ratification of the Definitive Treaty, or sooner if it can be done. The King of *Great Britain* shall, in like Manner, at the End of Three Months after the Ratification of the Definitive Treaty, or sooner if it can be done, enter again into Possession of the Islands of *Grenada*, the *Grenadines*, *St. Vincent*, *Dominica*, *St. Christopher's*, *Nevis*, and *Montserrat*.

France

France ſhall be put into Poſſeſſion of the Towns and Comptoirs which are reſtored to Her in the *Eaſt Indies*, and of the Territories which are procured for Her, to ſerve as Dependencies round *Pondicherry*, and round *Karical*, Six Months after the Ratification of the Definitive Treaty, or ſooner if it can be done.

France ſhall, at the End of the ſame Term of Six Months, reſtore the Towns and Territories which Her Arms may have taken from the *Engliſh*, or their Allies, in the *Eaſt Indies*.

In conſequence whereof, the neceſſary Orders ſhall be ſent by each of the high contracting Parties, with reciprocal Paſſports for the Ships which ſhall carry them, immediately after the Ratification of the Definitive Treaty.

ARTICLE XXI.

The Priſoners made reſpectively by the Arms of His *Britannic* Majeſty, and His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, by Land and by Sea, ſhall be reſtored reciprocally and *bonâ fide*, immediately after the Ratification of the Definitive Treaty, without Ranſom, and on paying the Debts they may have contracted during their Captivity; and each Crown ſhall reſpectively reimburſe the Sums which ſhall have been advanced for the Subſiſtence and Maintenance of their Priſoners, by the Sovereign of the Country where they ſhall have been detained, according to the Receipts and atteſted Accounts, and other authentic Titles, which ſhall be produced on each Side.

ARTICLE XXII.

In order to prevent all Cauſes of Complaint and Diſpute which may ariſe on Account of Prizes which may be made at Sea after the Signing of theſe Preliminary Articles, it is reciprocally agreed, That the Veſſels and Effects which may be taken in the *Channel*, and in the *North Seas*, after the Space of Twelve Days to be computed from the Ratification of the preſent Preliminary Articles, ſhall be reſtored on each Side.

That the Term ſhall be One Month, from the *Channel*, and the *North Seas*, as far as the *Canary Iſlands*, incluſively, whether in the Ocean or in the *Mediterranean*. Two Months, from the ſaid *Canary Iſlands*, as far as the Equinoctial Line, or Equator. And laſtly, Five Months in all other Parts of the World, without any Exception, or any other more particular Deſcription of Time and Place.

ARTICLE XXIII.

The Ratifications of the preſent Preliminary Articles ſhall be expedited in good and due Form, and exchanged in the Space of One Month, or ſooner if it can be done, to be computed from the Day of the Signature of the preſent Articles.

In Witneſs whereof, we the under-written Miniſters Plenipotentiary of His *Britannic* Majeſty, and of His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, by virtue of our reſpective full Powers, have ſigned the preſent Preliminary Articles, and have cauſed the Seal of our Arms to be put thereto.

Done at *Verſailles*, the Twentieth Day of *January* 1783.

ALLEYNE FITZ-HERBERT. (L. S.)

GRAVIER DE VERGENNES. (L. S.)

BRITISH
MUSEUM

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